

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-fifth meeting of the Animals Committee  
Geneva (Switzerland), 18-22 July 2011

TORTOISES AND FRESHWATER TURTLES (DECISION 15.79)  
(agenda item 19)

Membership (as decided by the Committee)

Chair:	Regional representative of Africa (Mr Kasiki);
Vice-Chair:	Alternate representative of Asia (Mr Giam);
Party observers:	China, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Thailand, the United States; and
IGOs and NGOs:	IUCN, Association of Midwestern Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Conservation International, International Animal Trade Organisation, Pet Care Trust, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, Pro Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Society.

Mandate

- a) Review the study from the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group (IUCN-TFTSG) contained in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 19; and
- b) Draft recommendations for adoption by the Animals Committee to be eventually presented to the Standing Committee and/or at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recommendations

1. Subject to external funding and with appropriate assistance, the Animals Committee should engage independent consultants to undertake a study to identify and discuss factors that are of particular relevance to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles, including (but not limited to) turtle population status and dynamics, trade dynamics, and the trade in parts, products and derivatives. This study should provide guidance for Parties to make non-detriment findings for tortoises and freshwater turtles.

The Animals Committee should report on progress at AC26 and CoP16.

2. The AC shall review at its 26th meeting the results of the North American Turtle Trade Workshop, held in St. Louis in September 2010, and the Asian Turtle Conservation Workshop held in Singapore in February 2011, and additional pertinent information, and make recommendations for the consideration of the Parties to amend the CITES Appendices with regard to turtle species.
3. The Animals Committee requests the Secretariat to prepare a Notification to encourage Parties to engage partners with expertise and resources when evaluating disposal options for confiscated live turtles, such as repatriation or addition to in-situ or ex-situ conservation breeding programs, taking into account Resolution Conf. 10.7 (Rev. CoP15) on the disposal of confiscated live specimens, to maximize the conservation value of such confiscated specimens of rare tortoises and freshwater turtles.

4. The AC wishes to inform the SC that the ability of Parties to make accurate NDFs is undermined by the often undocumented trade in parts and derivatives, and by the sometimes questionable use of source codes C, F and R, and therefore the AC requests the SC to place particular emphasis on these topics in its recommendations.
5. The Animals Committee notes with concern the trade management challenges identified in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 19 for tortoises and freshwater turtles. The Animals Committee requests that the Standing Committee consider proposing a Decision at CoP16 directing Parties to report on their implementation of recommendations contained in the Annex to document AC25 Doc. 19 regarding enforcement and compliance.